



## FOREIGN.

## Account of Recent Russian Operations at and About Erzerum.

## THE RECORD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—Mr. Sargent, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported, with an amendment, the House bill for the construction of the new battleship, which was a good deal amended. The amendment provides for the payment to the heirs of the lost twelve months' pay; to the heirs of Capt. Guthrie, of the Life-Saving Service, one year's pay; and to the heirs of those belonging to the wrecking steamer B. & J. Baker, who were lost in attempting to save the ship from the Huron, \$100 each. The amendment was agreed to, and the bill was passed.

## An Unofficial Statement as to Russia's Terms of Peace.

## She Will Contend for the Autonomy of the Christian Population.

## The Permanent Possession of Kars and Batum, and Serbian and Macedonian Independence.

## She Also Expects to Secure the Free Passage of the Dardanelles.

## Negotiations for the Settlement of the French Difficulties Suddenly Broken Off.

## MacMahon Will Not Relinquish the Army, Navy, and Foreign Affairs Ministers.

## THE OUTLOOK.

(By Cable to The Chicago Tribune.)

LONDON, Dec. 7.—From Kars this morning's correspondent telegraphs, Dec. 6, an attack on Erzerum is impending, but nothing has transpired yet with regard to the manner in which operations will be brought to a close. Whether bombardment, or regular siege, or assault is likely to be adopted may chiefly depend on circumstances. A great deal of snow has blocked the Bosphorus, and, in consequence, some difficulty in transporting heavy ordnance is experienced. Strong working parties are busy now in clearing that road.

The ordinary commissariat service has, however, not been interrupted.

Under date of Nov. 21 from Erzerum I have the following: Have been officially informed that it is not allowed to telegraph information.

On Tuesday, the town was summoned to surrender for the second time. The Russian messenger stated that Kars had fallen. The same day the Russian fired a salute of 100 guns at Devo Boyun; we do not know whether in celebration of the fall of Kars, or for some other reason. Great military activity prevails. Several battalions marching to Erzerum have been ordered to remain in the vicinity of Top Dag. The Civil Government archives and municipal funds have for a second time been sent to Balbour. The opening of the bombardment is momentarily expected, though Mukhtar Pasha says that his forces will be able to keep the enemy's cannon out of range of Erzerum.

A TELEGRAM FROM CONSTANTINOPLE states that clerics are being made to induce the Christian members of the Turkish Parliament, who are already slowly arriving, to sign a manifesto protesting against Russian aggression and assuring the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire of the undying loyalty of his Christian subjects.

A TELEGRAM FROM ROSTOV states that Timova, by speedy reinforcements from Biela, is fully secured against surprise from Suleiman Pasha, and that the relief of Plevna is impossible. A detachment was pushed forward to Slatizara, driving the Turkish forces and pursuing them in the direction of Dobrova, thus turning the right flank of the Turkish forces and compelling them to desert upon their attack on Jaconita. Considerable attention is directed to statements published yesterday in Bucharest, chiefly extracted from the *Globe* and other Russian newspapers, according to which it is thought better to

CONTINUE THE WAR than to agree to a patched-up peace which would compel Russia, sooner or later to recommence hostilities in order to secure a conclusion of such a peace as she requires for the development of her reforms at home. It is added that the Imperial Government must obtain serious guarantees, namely, the autonomy of the Christian population of Turkey, independence of Roumania and Servia, an independence of Montenegro, and for Russia the possession of Batum and Kars and the free navigation of the Dardanelles.

WAR NOTES.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 7.—It is reported that Suleiman Pasha has gained another victory between Elens and Timova.

BUCAREST, Dec. 7.—A Russian statement is published here which says that it is better to continue the war than to conclude a patched-up peace, which would sooner or later compel Russia to recommence hostilities in order to secure a conclusion of such a peace as she requires for the development of her reforms at home. It is added that the Imperial Government must obtain serious guarantees, namely, the autonomy of the Christian population of Turkey, independence of Roumania and Servia, an independence of Montenegro, and for Russia the possession of Batum and Kars and the free navigation of the Dardanelles.

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## BRIDGE DAMAGED.

TURKEY, Dec. 6.—It is reported that sixteen pontoons of the Nikolopoli bridge have been sunk by the storm, and more are expected to sink. It is blowing hard.

## MACMAHON.

HE WILL NOT RESIGN.

(By Cable to The Chicago Tribune.)

LONDON, Dec. 7.—The attempt to form a Cabinet with Dufaure as President of the Council has fallen through. Marshal MacMahon held out on the point of naming his Ministers of War and Foreign Affairs. The Committee of the Left not consenting to these, negotiations were broken off. The Marshal was anxious that the Marquis de Bonnevill and Gen. Rochebouet should retain their portfolios, both having expressed their willingness to do so, but the Committee of Eighteen insisted on the constitutional right of the majority being respected. The crisis is now regarded as more serious than ever. It is quite possible that the approach of the time for opening the Exhibition may exercise an influence on both parties, but, at the moment of writing, the attempt to form a Ministry is a failure.

## FALLEN THROUGH.

THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION.

PARIS, Dec. 7.—President MacMahon has finally conceded to M. Dufaure full liberty of action in forming a Cabinet. The new Ministry will, however, be composed of the same members as the present one. This excludes President MacMahon's reservation that he might have the choice of the Ministers of War, Marine, and Foreign Affairs.

THE REASON.

President MacMahon's reservation is said to be due to the financial policy of the Orleanist Senate, who resolved not to support a second dissolution. Duke D'Audiffert Pasquier, President of the Senate, told President MacMahon Wednesday that he himself would take the financial responsibility.

THE MINISTRY.

It is believed the new Ministry will include Leon Say, Minister of Finance; De Marcere, Minister of the Interior; Christophe, Minister of War; Paulin Talon, Minister of Marine; Minister of Commerce; Waddington, Minister of Public Instruction; and Bordeaux, Minister of Justice.

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## MEXICO.

THE FICKLE GRASSHOPPER.

TUCUMAN, Ari, Dec. 7.—From private letters received here, to which credence is attached, the following news is gleaned: Gen. Epitacio Huerta, Commanding General of Sonora under Diaz, is ordered to Mexico, and all the Federal garrisons in Sonora are concentrating in Guaymas. The frontier towns have been left unprotected. Discontent is general. Sonora, Sonora, and Lower California, there having been a revolution of opinion in the latter of Lerma. Important news is expected soon.

## MISCELLANY.

THE TAPAL SUCCESSION.

PARIS, Dec. 7.—The Portuguese Minister to the Vatican has been recalled to the rank of Ambassador. Portugal claims the right of veto in the next Papal election.

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